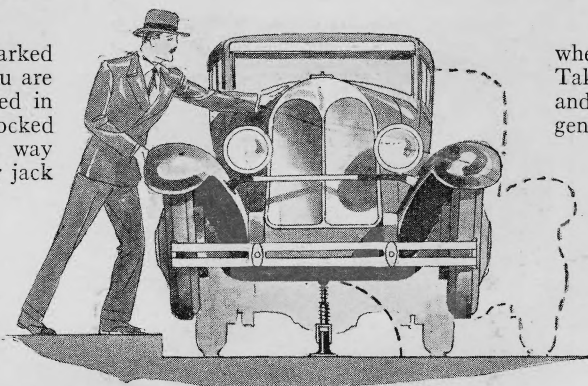


Kinks to Help Auto Mechanics

Novel way of getting clear when blocked by parked cars—How to install neon stop light on any car

WHEN you leave your car parked at the curb and if while you are absent other cars are parked in front and behind yours, you are blocked in if the other cars are locked. A way out is illustrated in Fig. 1. Put your jack under the center of the front axle and work the jack as high as it will go. Then push the car side-wise until it falls off the jack. This will move the front of the car quite a distance out into the street. Repeat the process till you can drive away.



whether or not the generator is all right. Take a long nail or a piece of heavy wire and insert it in the lathe center of shaft in generator. Then with a hand drill set over the nail or wire, turn the generator, to which the flashlight bulb has been wired. If the light shines steadily the generator is working satisfactorily, but if the light flickers it is a sign that there is trouble either in the commutator or in the wires.

NOVEL CARBON SCRAPER

FIGURE 2 shows how to make a carbon scraper that will cut into and quickly remove the hardest carbon deposit in the cylinder head

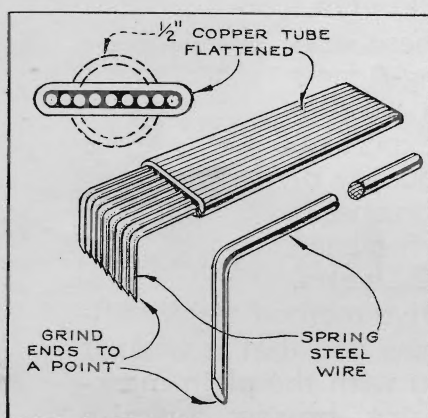


Fig. 2. This tool will scrape away carbon.

or on the pistons. Take a number of pieces of spring steel wire such as piano wire. Cut them to a uniform length.

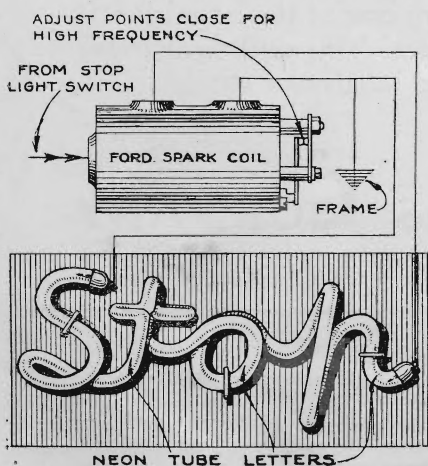


Fig. 3. Ford coil supplies necessary high tension current to operate a red neon stop light.

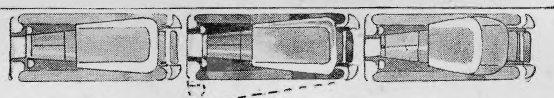


Fig. 1. Shows how a jack can be used to get a car out of a tight place when blocked by autos.

Next, take a piece of copper tubing with an inside diameter of about a half inch and partly flatten it.

Place the wires side by side in the end of the partly flattened tube and hammer the tube till it grips the wires. Bend the ends of the wires down as shown and grind them to a cutting edge. Then stone off the cutting edges a trifle, enough so that they won't bite into the metal. The flexibility of the spring wire makes this tool ideal for scraping carbon from curved surfaces.

NEON STOP LIGHT

FIGURE 3 shows a stop light that certainly can be seen. This stop light spells out the word "stop" in the brilliant red of the neon sign. An old Ford coil supplies the necessary high tension current. It should be mounted close to the sign and wired as indicated. No changes need be made in the stop light switch. Simply connect the wire from the stop light switch to the coil. Adjust the vibrator to give as high a note as possible.

GENERATOR TEST

It is easy enough to test the windings of a generator to make sure that there are no open circuits. A flashlight bulb connected to the generator will determine

VALVE LOCKS

It is difficult to install, with the fingers alone, split, tapered valve locks of the kind now used on many cars. To save your nerves and your time, take a piece of thin sheet-iron or tin, snip the ends,

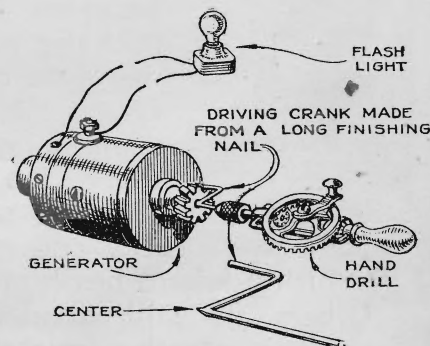


Fig. 4. Simple means of testing a car's generator.

and bend them, as shown in diagram, to fit the valve lock. Place cup grease on the inner surface of the valve so that it will stick in place while the valve spring is being released. The valve locks can be installed easily with this simple tool.

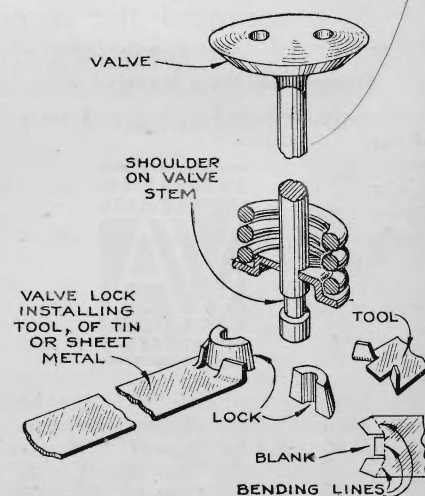


Fig. 5. A valve lock installing tool that is easy to make and will save much wear and tear.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY awards each month a prize of \$10, in addition to regular space rates, for the best idea sent in for motorists. This month's prize goes to Lemuel Harris, Nogales, Arizona (Figure 5). Contributions are requested from auto mechanics.